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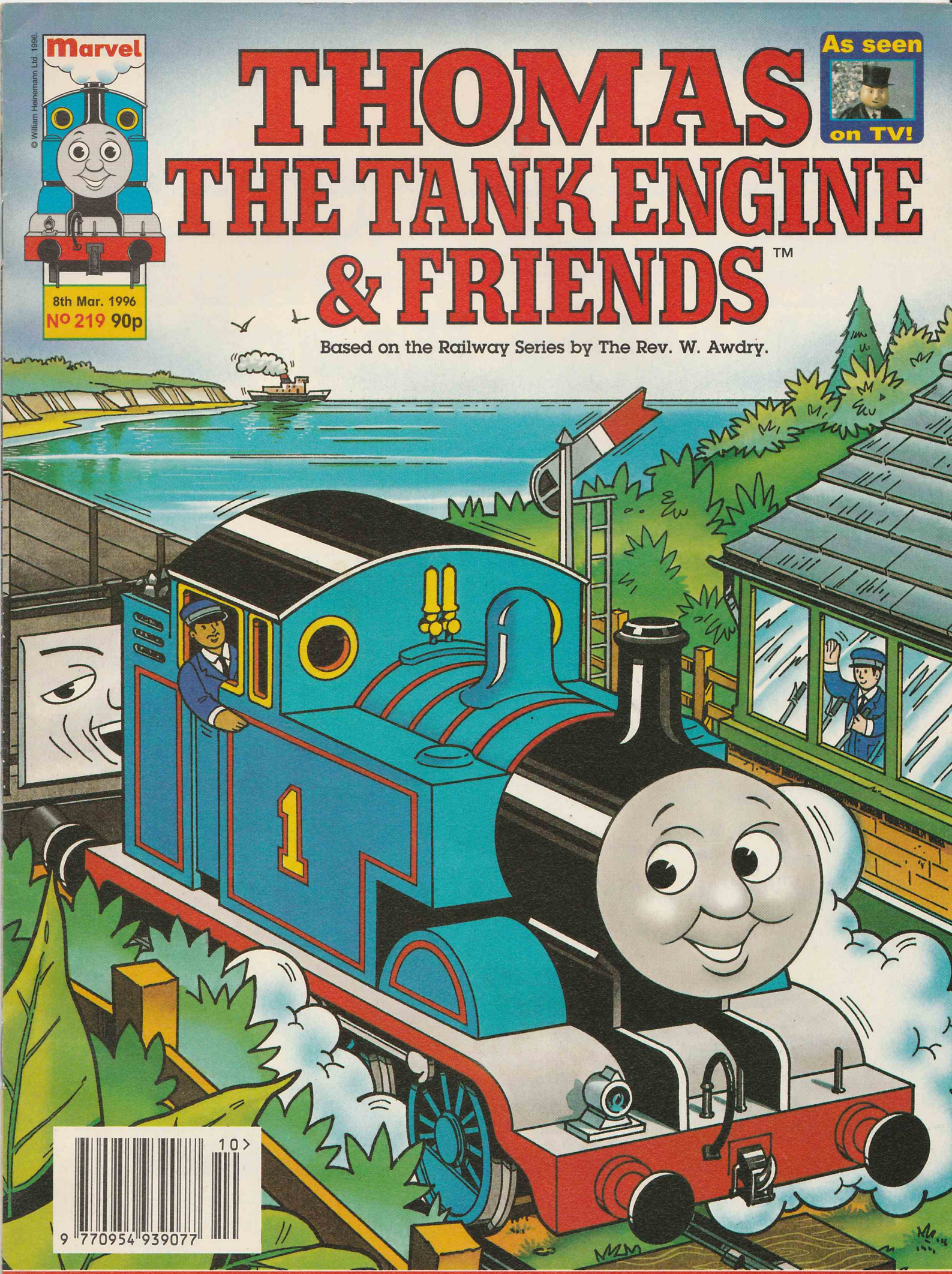
Marvel

8th Mar. 1996
No 219 90p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS™

As seen on TV!

Based on the Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



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Great new stories inside!

ALL AB

Notice Board!

Peep! Peep! There are three great new stories for you to enjoy in this issue of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends! Oliver helps solve a puzzle for the Fat Controller in Really Useful Oliver! Meanwhile, Percy ends up in a sticky situation and only Terence can help him out of it, in Pulling and ploughing! In Seeing signals, the fog almost causes terrible trouble for Thomas! Read on to find out more! Peep! Peep!

Competition!

In this issue's competition, six lucky Thomas fans will win a set of 20 Buzz Books! Turn to page 23 for more details.

Great news on page 18!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS** a division of PANINI UK Ltd. Managing Director: Richard Maskell; Managing Editor: Alan O'Keefe; Editor: Cynthia O'Neill; Project Leader: Jason Quinn; Art Director: Helen Nally; Design: Steve Rawlinson; Production: Mark Irvine, Andy Parslow. With thanks to Geoff Cowan, Tim Marwood and John York. Office of Publication: 13-15 Arundel St., London WC2R 3DX. All 'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS' material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (THOMAS) Ltd. exclusively worldwide. **'THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS'** is a trademark of Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Limited. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Marketforce (UK) Ltd., 247 Tottenham Court Road, LONDON W1P OAU. Tel. 0171 261 5555. ISSN 0954-9390.

ABC AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS CONSUMER PRESS

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

OARD!

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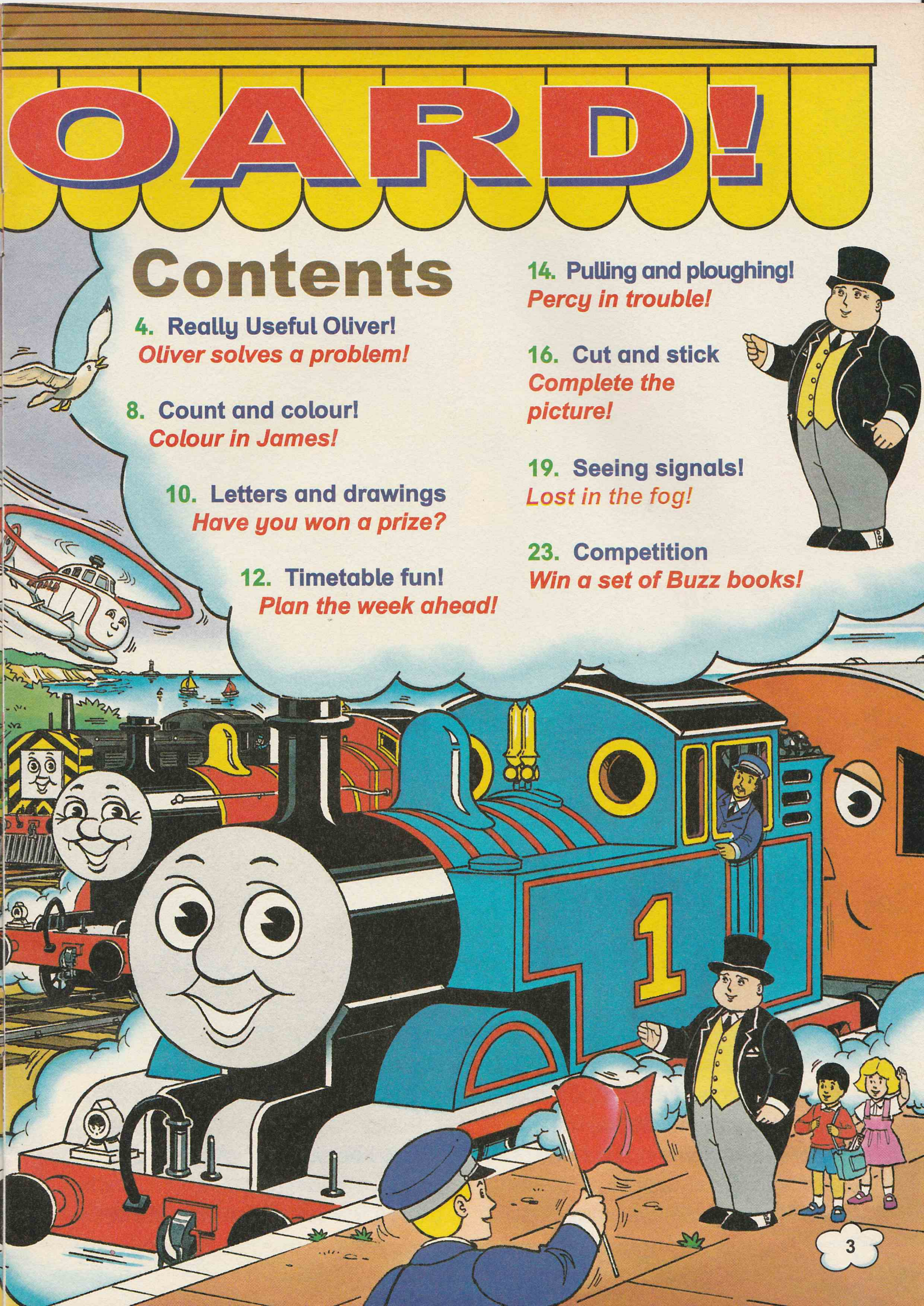
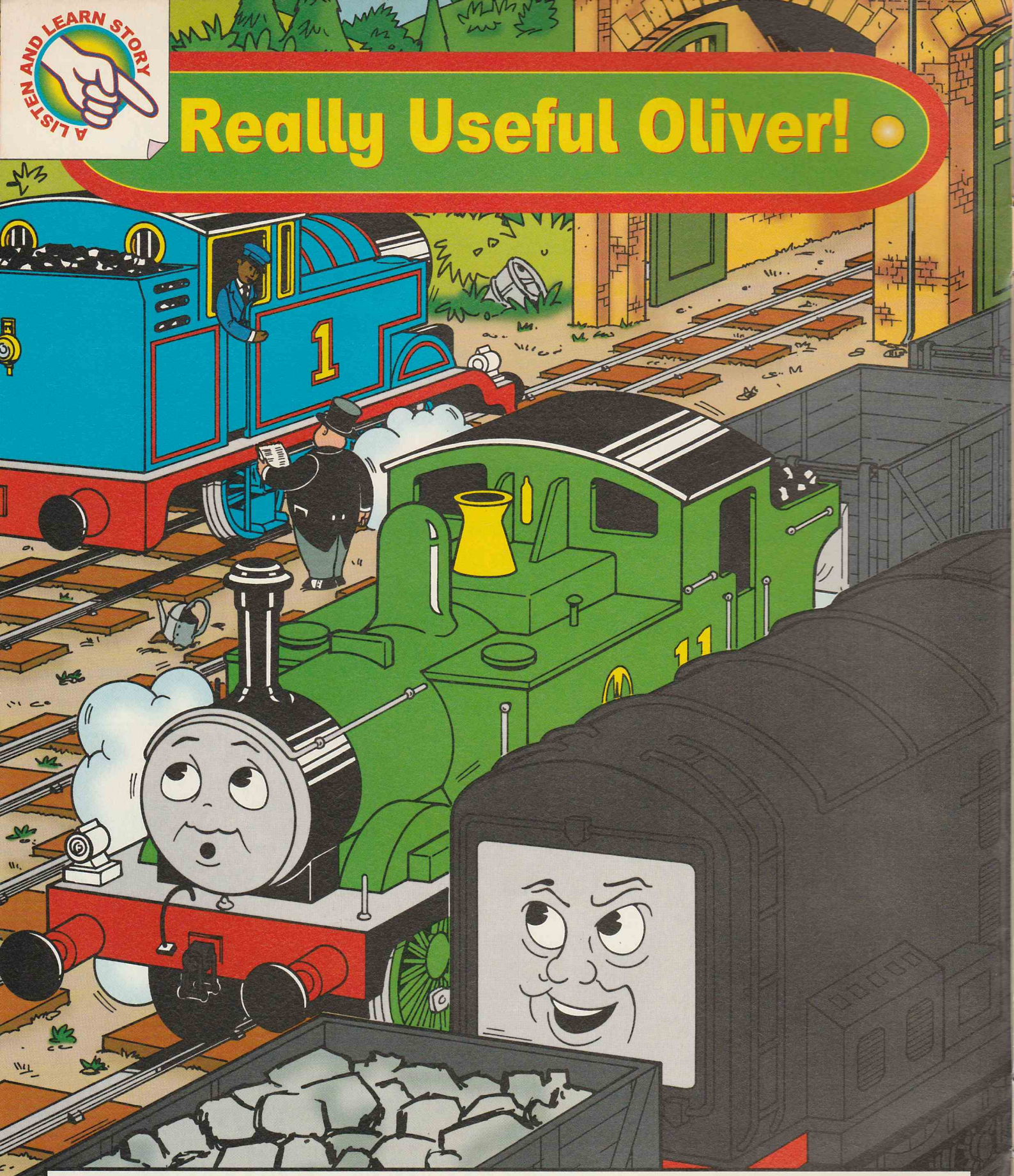
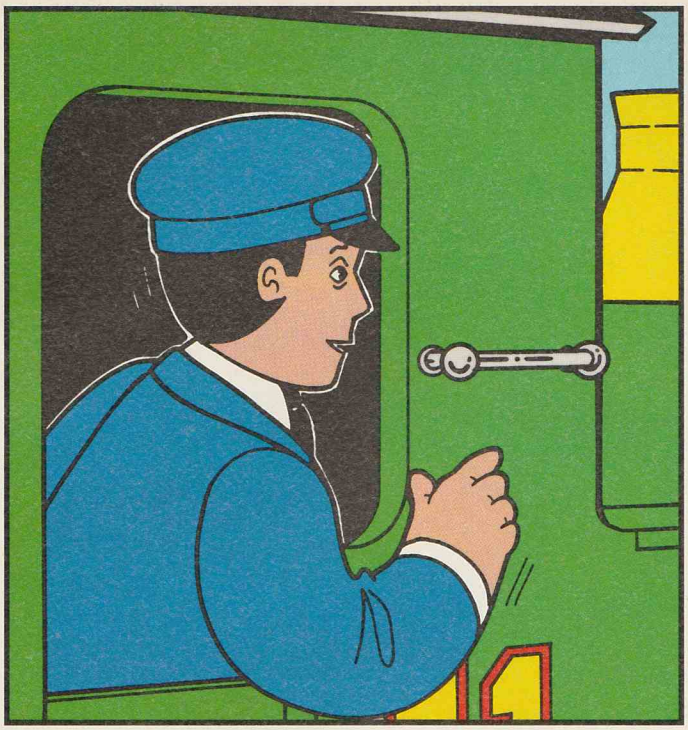


Really Useful Oliver!

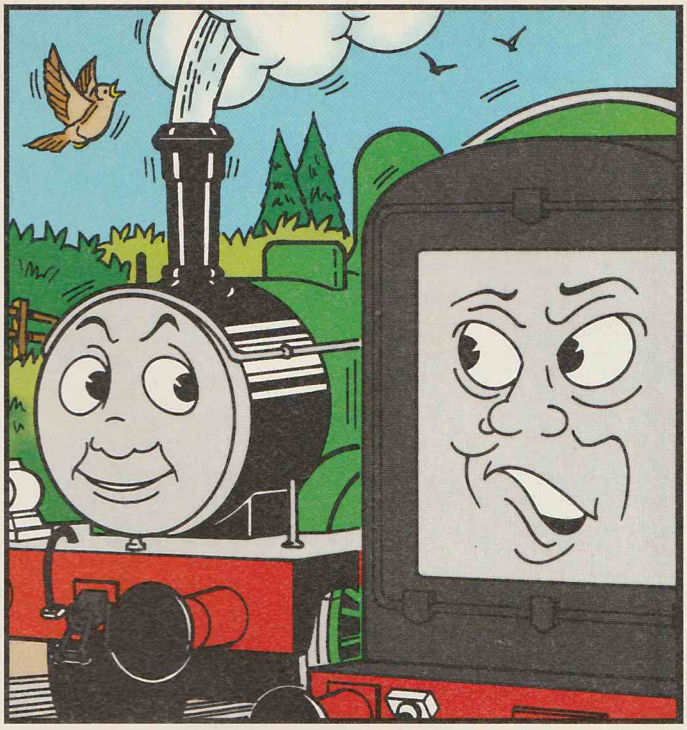


1. One morning, the Fat Controller walked about the Main Station yard, talking to the engine drivers and busily making notes on a piece of paper. The engines were puzzled.

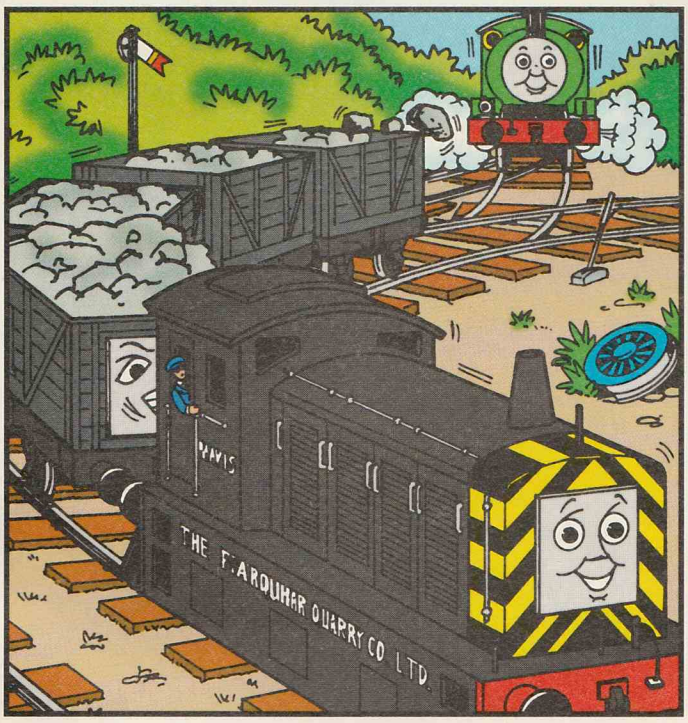
2. "What's he up to?" asked Oliver. "He's probably writing down who should be sent for scrap," replied Diesel in his oily voice. "I expect you're the top of his list, Oliver!"



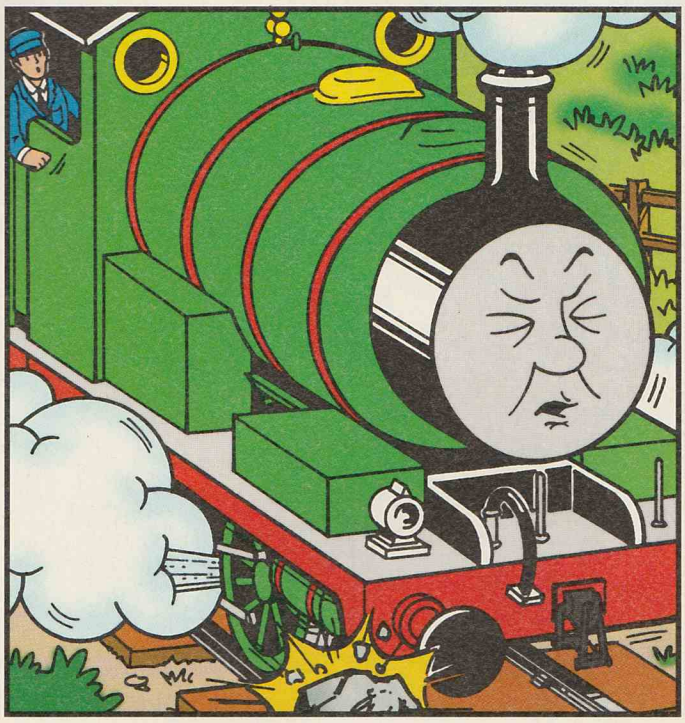
3. Oliver was worried because he had already been saved from scrap. But his driver solved the mystery. "The Fat Controller's only working out a new timetable," he explained.



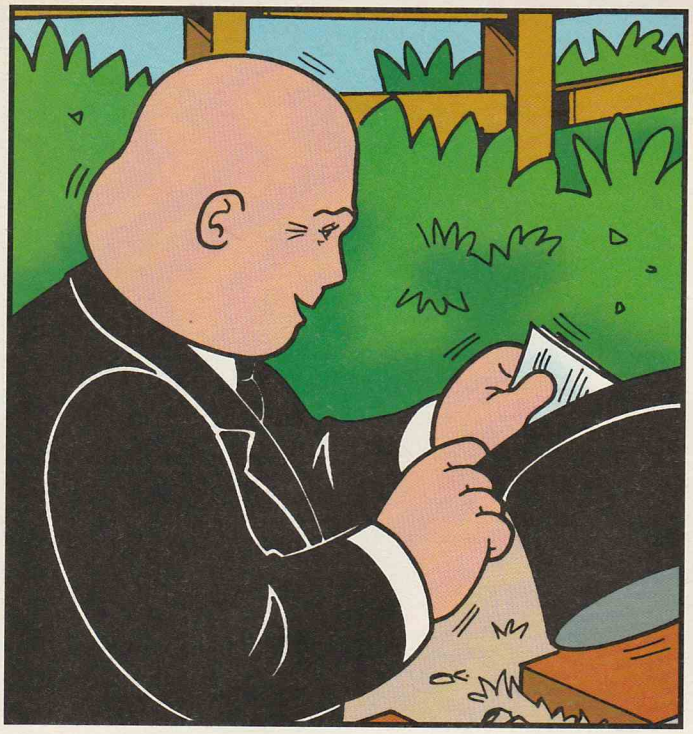
4. Oliver was very relieved. "That was a nasty thing to say, Diesel!" he fumed. "I thought it was really funny!" sneered Diesel. Just then, Mavis returned from the quarry.



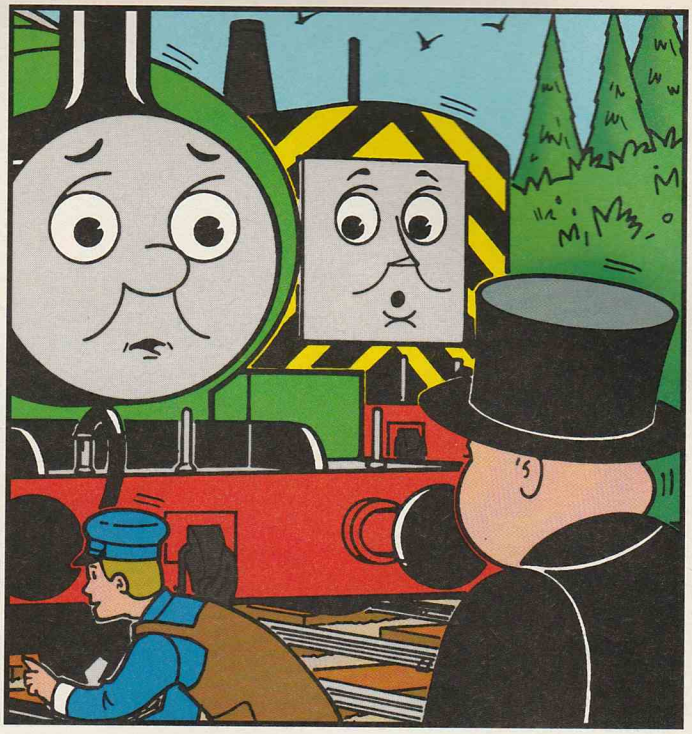
5. She was pulling lots of trucks. All of a sudden, a huge stone began to roll off the last truck, just as the points were changed behind her. Percy was about to come puffing through.



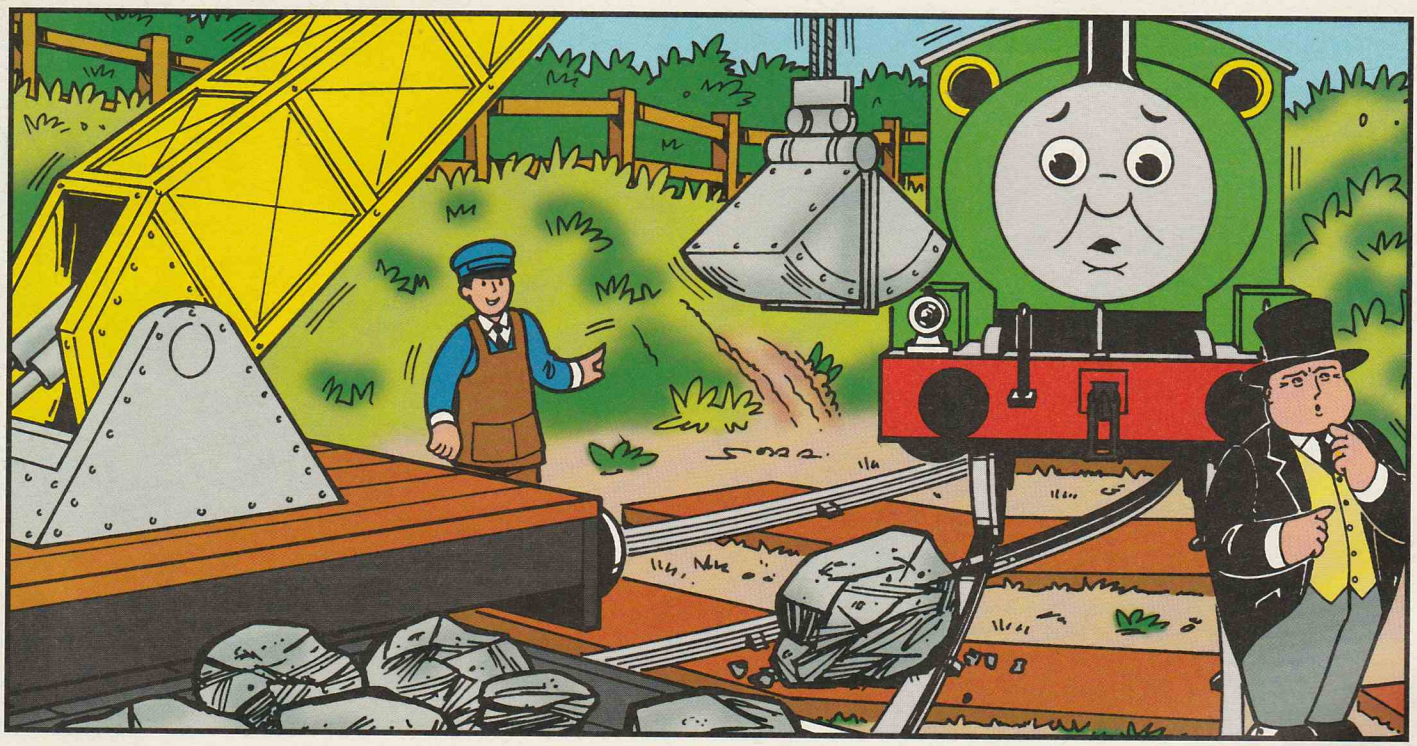
6. The big stone crashed onto the line, right in front of poor Percy. "Oh, no! I can't stop in time!" he cried. There was a CLANG! Percy ran over the stone before pulling up.



7. The Fat Controller quickly put his notes inside his top hat to keep them safe. Then he hurried over to investigate. "I'm sorry, Sir!" said Percy. "I couldn't help it!"

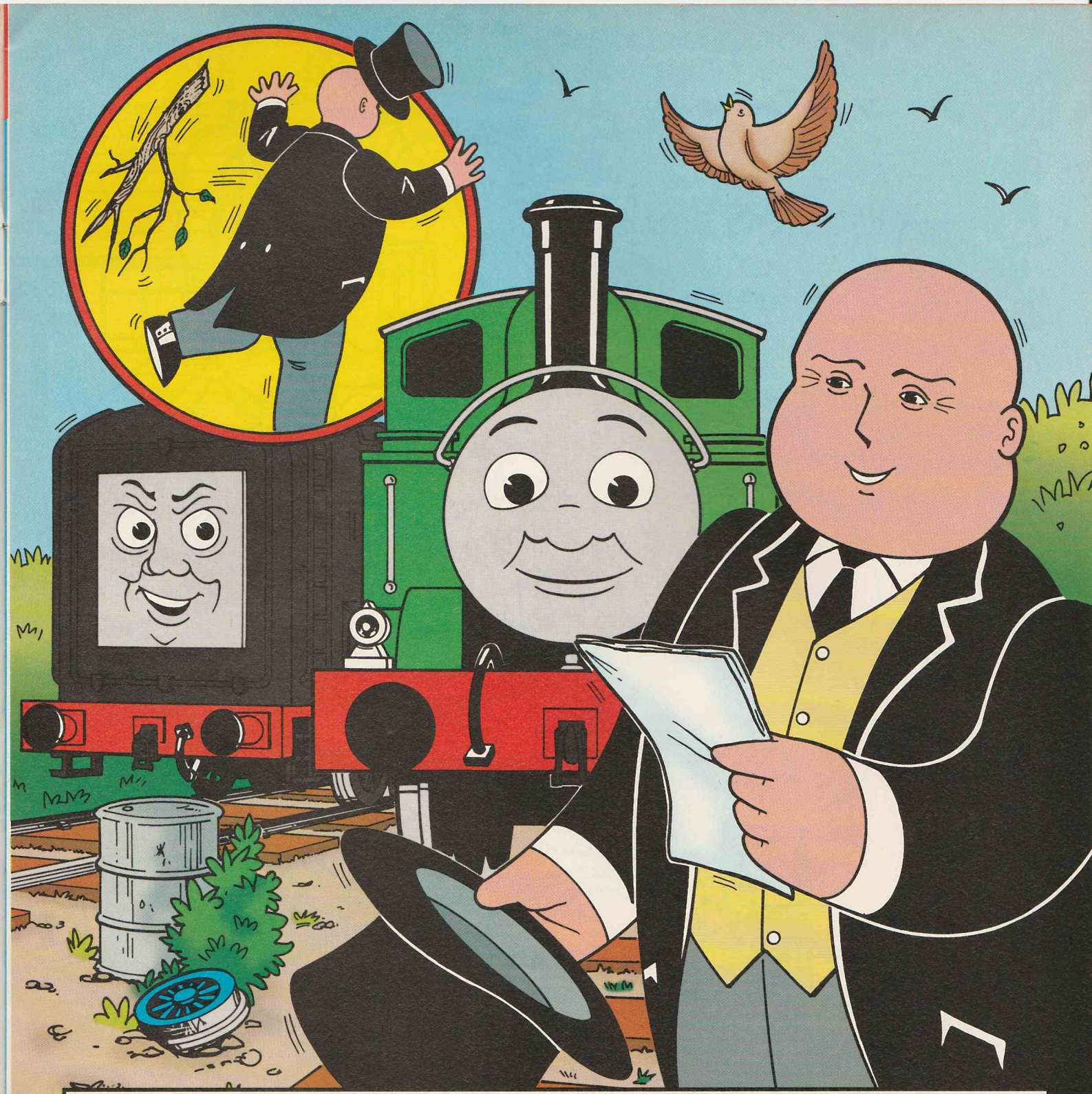


8. "Neither could I," called Mavis, anxiously. "It was no one's fault," said the Fat Controller, kindly. The chief engineer soon arrived to check underneath Percy for damage.



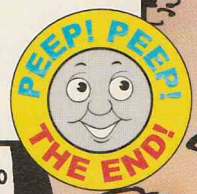
9. "No harm done," the engineer told the Fat Controller. "Percy was very lucky!" Percy slowly backed up so that a crane could lift the stone off the line and load it again.

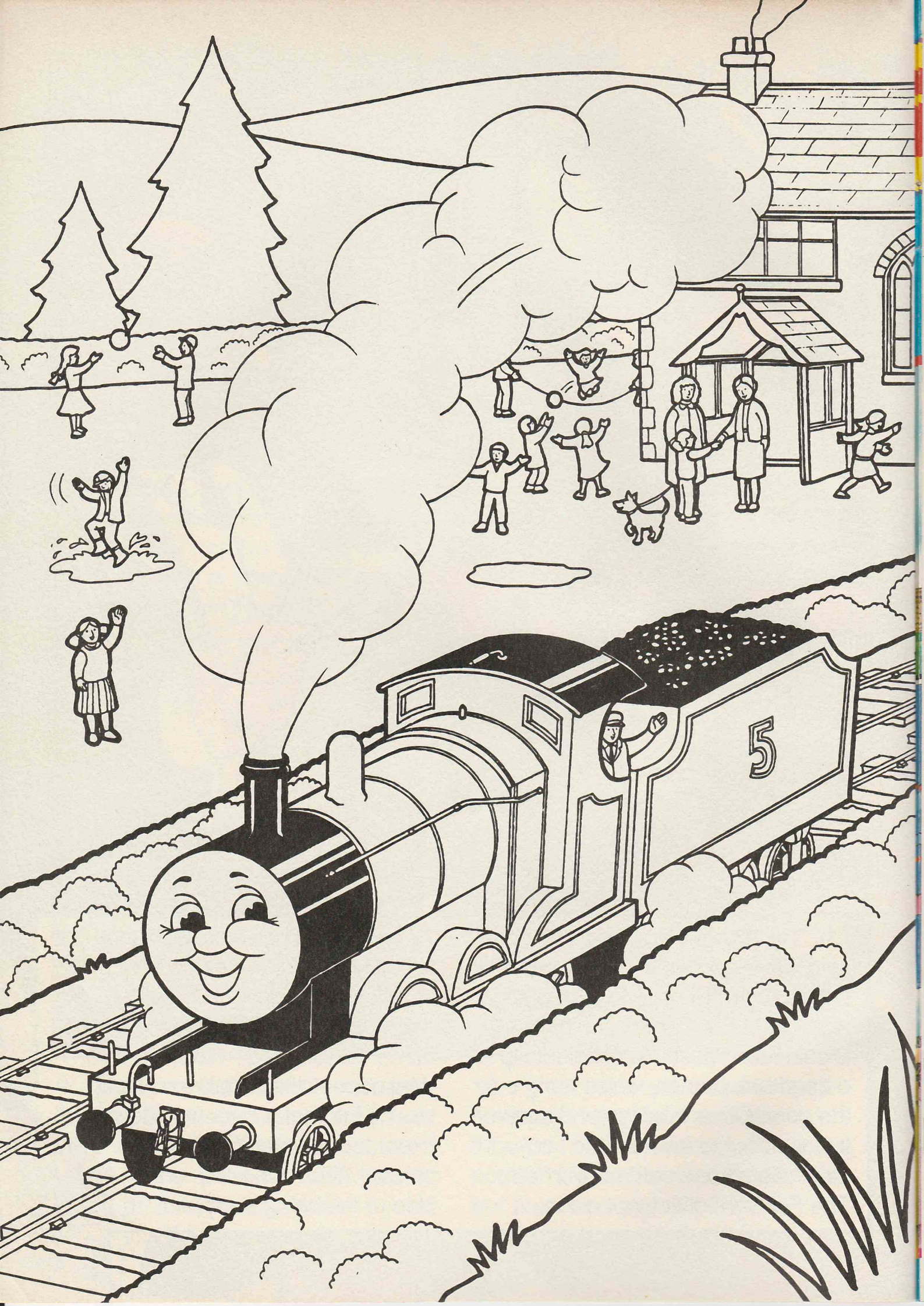
10. "Now I can get on with my timetable," the Fat Controller thought . "But **where** have I put my notes?" He turned out his pockets, but the notes weren't there.



11. "I must have dropped them," he said. He searched everywhere, but it was no use. "I'll have to start again," sighed the Fat Controller. Then Diesel rolled past. He accidentally hit a dead tree branch, which hung over the yard. Oliver saw the end snap off. It was about to fall near the Fat Controller. "Look out!" he warned. The Fat Controller leapt aside.

12. He moved so quickly, his top hat fell off his head. But as he bent down to pick it up he saw his notes inside. "I remember now! That's where I left them!" he laughed. "What a relief! Well done, Oliver! You're a Really Useful Engine!" Oliver was delighted. "Hear that, Diesel?" he said, proudly. "You can scrap any idea of me being scrapped!"

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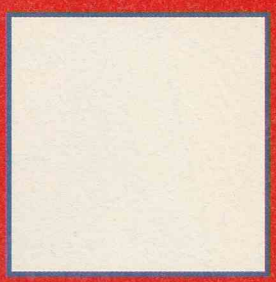
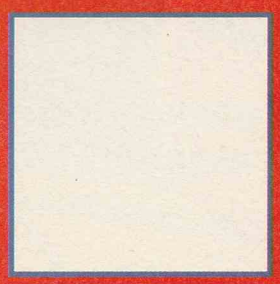
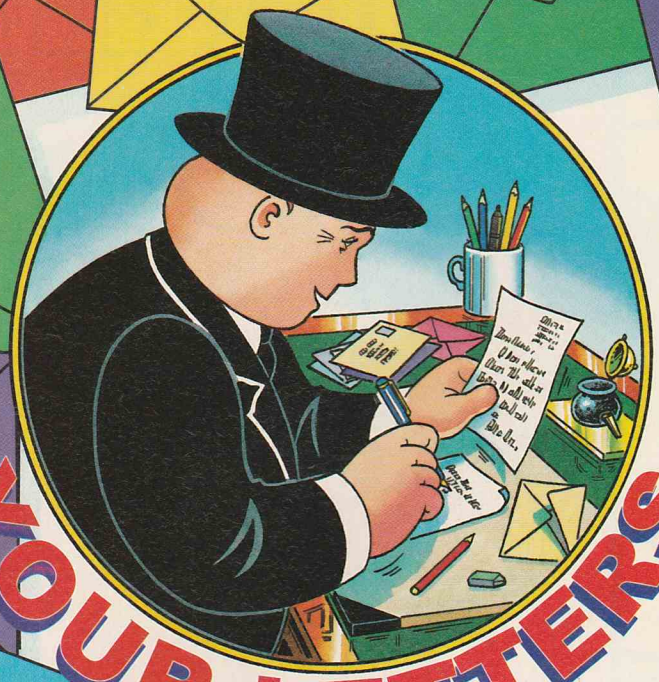
Count and colour!

The children have worked hard at their lessons all morning, but now it is playtime, and they are having fun. What games are the children playing? Now colour this picture.

How many flowers and windows can you see?







YOUR LETTERS

STAR LETTER!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our STAR LETTER will win one of these Thomas push and pull motorised engines!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do Thomas and his friends enjoy playing on the beach, like me?
Love from Ashwin Dalvi aged 2

Thomas and his friends can't play on the beach, because they need a track to travel along. But Duck's branch line runs by the sea, and he loves to watch the boats as he goes about his work.

Dear Fat Controller,
Who is the cleverest engine?
Love from Lee Harris aged 4

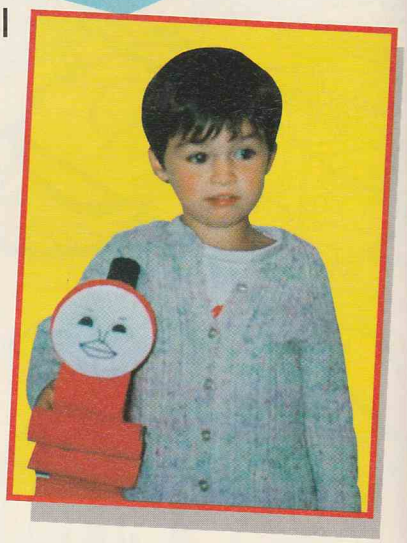
All my engines are clever in their own way. Edward is wise and gives good advice to the younger engines. Thomas has splendid ideas and often solves awkward problems.

Dear Fat Controller,
Do you wish sometimes that you were an engine driver?
Love from Philip Fletcher aged 5

Well, Philip, I once became an engine driver for the day, in an emergency! I had a splendid time and enjoyed myself very much indeed.

PHOTO OF THE FORTNIGHT

Dear Fat Controller,
Here is a model I made of James, all by myself. I hope you will agree he turned out to be a very splendid red engine.
Love from
Thomas Paling
aged 4



BIRTHDAYS

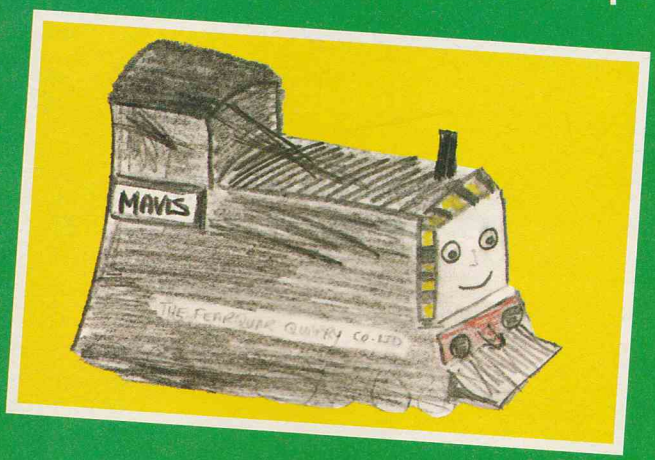
A special birthday hello goes out to:

Nikeel Boyd-Shah, Nicholas Burdall, Linda Kavanagh, Simon Osborne and Shaun West.

DON'T FORGET TO SEND IN YOUR BIRTHDAY REQUESTS TWO MONTHS AHEAD!

Drawing Board!

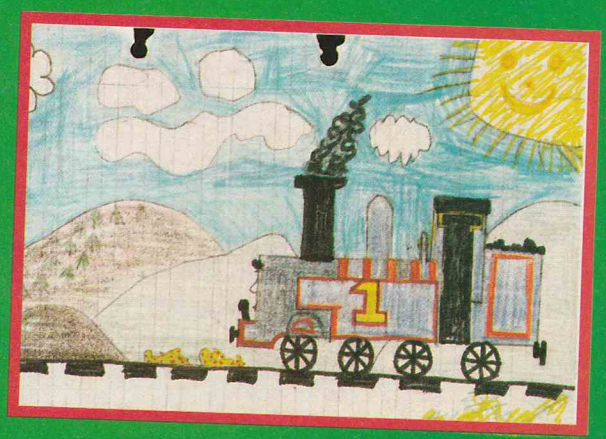
Sadly, we can't print all the great engine paintings we receive, but thanks to everyone who has sent a picture to Drawing Board! Keep them coming!



Thank you, Christopher Dyke, aged 8, for this great picture of Mavis!

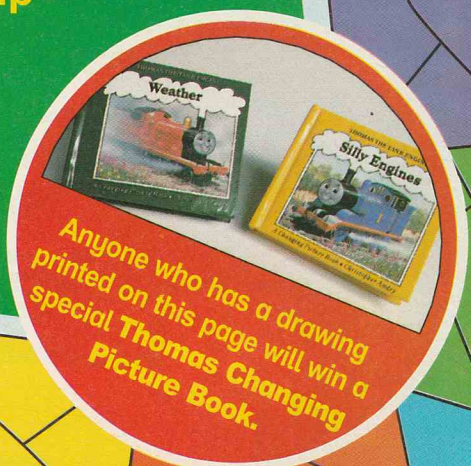
James is such a smart red engine! Tom Newton, aged 6, sent in this smashing picture.

Kelham Stevenson, aged 5, drew this great picture of Gordon, the fastest, most powerful engine!

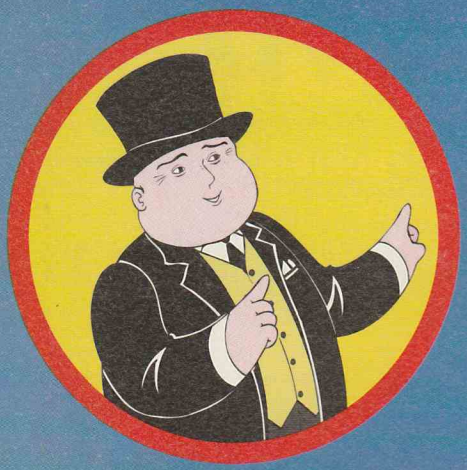


In this lovely drawing by Talan Richards, aged 8, Thomas is on a trip through the hills!

Send your drawings of Thomas and his friends to: The Fat Controller's Drawing Board, Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel St., London, WC2R 3DX.



Timetable fun!



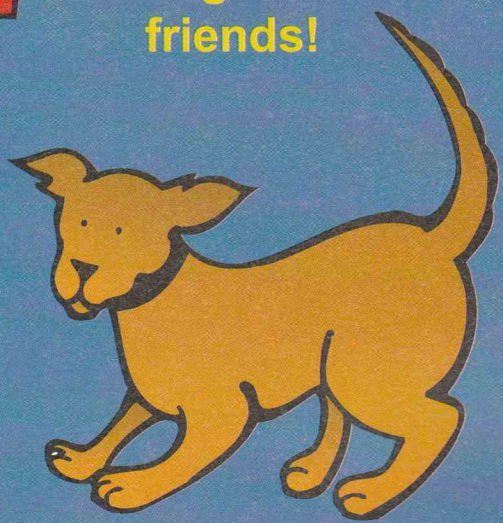
A timetable helps Thomas and his friends to be Really Useful, because it reminds them what journeys to make on different days. But timetables don't have to be just for work! Why don't you make a timetable of fun?

1 Ask a grown-up to help you cut out the timetable on the right. Stick the cut-out on to card, to stop it getting torn.

2 If you go out to play on a **Saturday** afternoon, draw a lively picture of your friends in the **'Saturday afternoon'** space on your timetable. You can draw fun pictures of **anything** that you like to do! Here are some ideas to help you begin...

Play with friends!

Visit your granny!



Take your dog for a walk in the park!

3 When you have packed your timetable full of fun pictures, pin it to the wall. It will remind you when it's time for fun!

Day
Morning
Afternoon
Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday
Saturday
Sunday

Pulling and ploughing!

Terence the tractor chugged steadily up and down a field near a railway station. Percy came steaming along with some trucks. He stopped at a signal.

"Hello, slowcoach!" Percy called cheekily to Terence. "What's that funny-looking thing you're pulling along?"

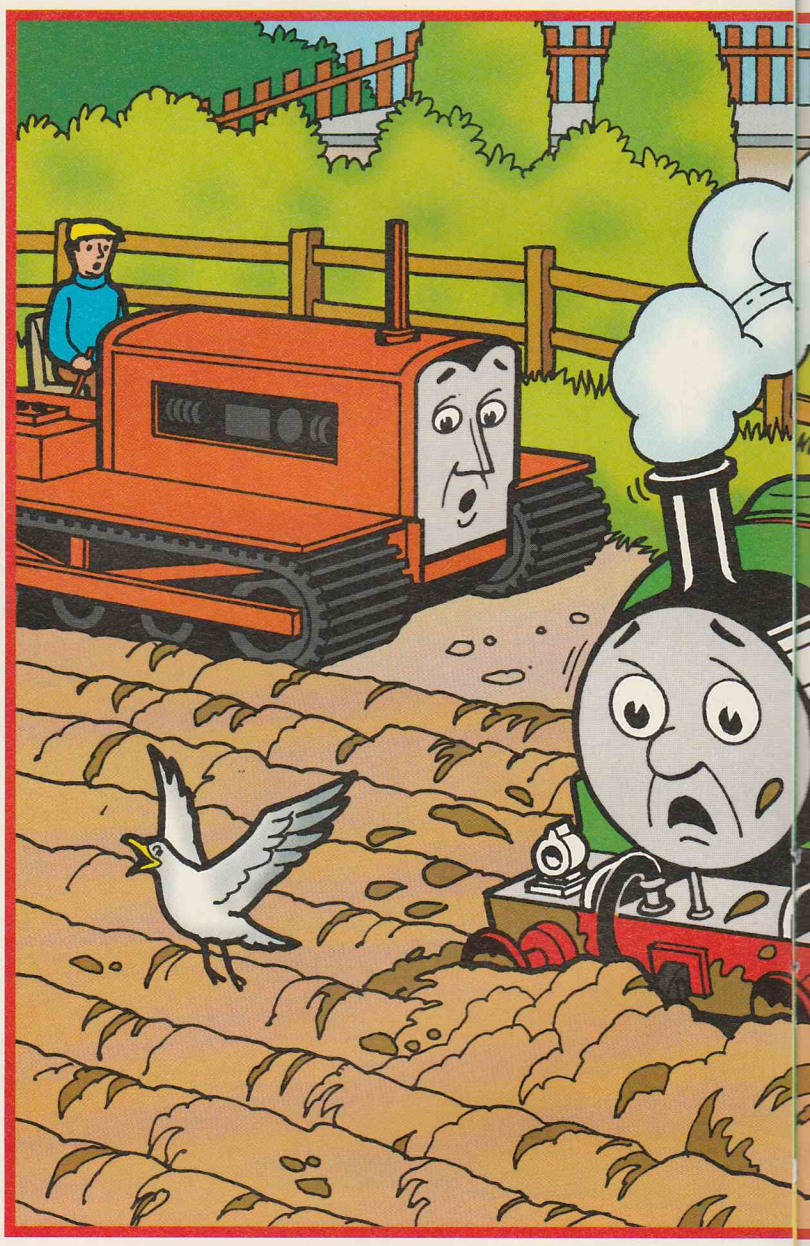
"It's a plough," replied Terence, "to dig the field."

"Pah! Pulling trucks is much more important than pulling a silly old plough!" teased Percy.

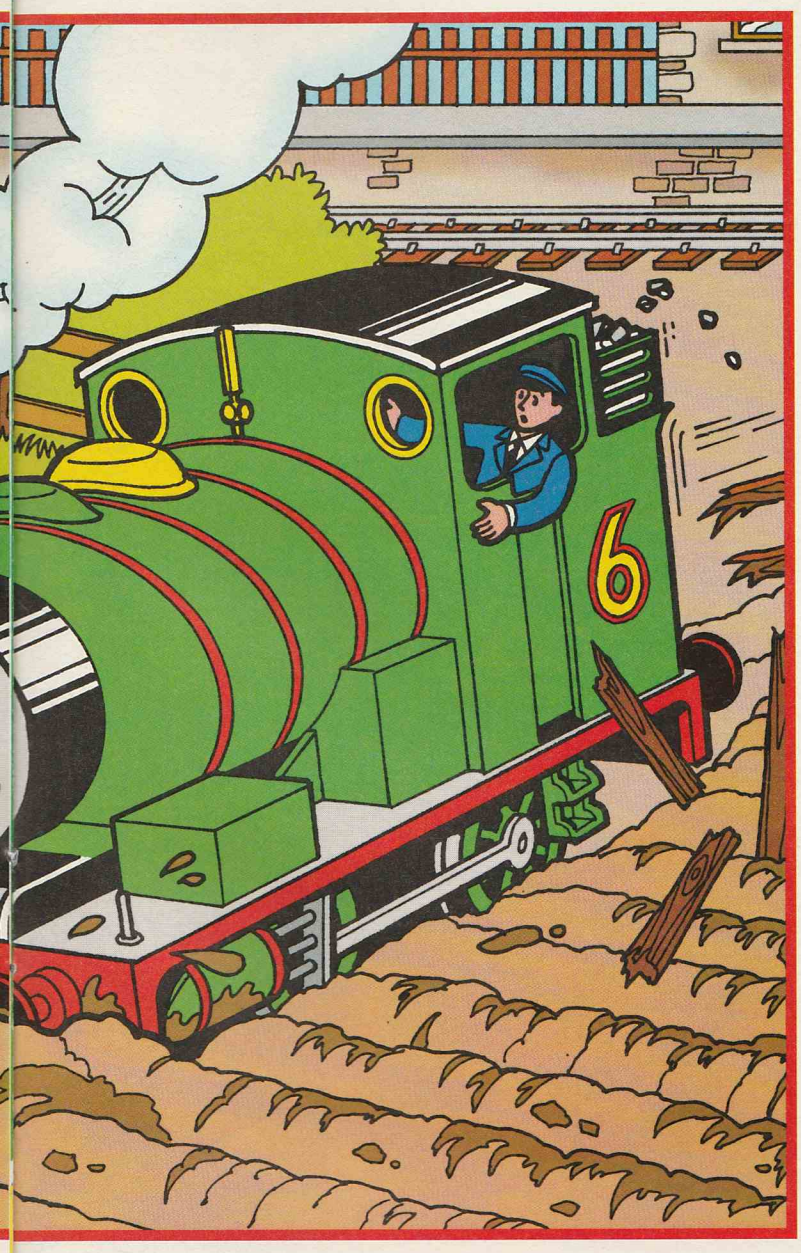
"Oh, no, it's not," the tractor replied. "Fields must be ploughed before crops are grown in them, to provide food for people and animals."

When the signal moved, Percy shunted the trucks into a siding. Then he was uncoupled. Percy had to switch tracks on to the through line again. He puffed forwards before the points were changed. All of a sudden, his brakes failed.

"Help!" Percy cried in alarm. "I can't stop!"



Luckily, the little saddle-tank engine wasn't going very fast. But unlucky Percy crashed right through some buffers and was derailed. He smashed through a fence and rolled into the muddy field that Terence was ploughing. Poor Percy rocked about so much that he thought he would fall over. At last, he slid to a halt. His wheels had sunk into the ground. Around them, the heavy engine had pushed up a big pile of earth.



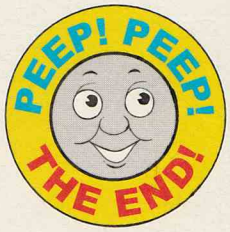
Eventually, a breakdown truck with a crane arrived. But it could not reach Percy in the field.

"Maybe I'm stuck here for good!" he groaned.

But then Terence was unhitched from the plough. He was chained to Percy instead. The tractor pulled as hard as he could. His caterpillar treads gripped the ground very well. At last, Terence towed Percy close enough to the crane so that it could lift him back on to the rails.

"I'm sorry I teased you, Terence," said a grateful Percy. "You'd make a Really Useful Engine, pulling me along like that!"

"The way you ploughed up the field, you'd make a fine tractor!" smiled Terence.

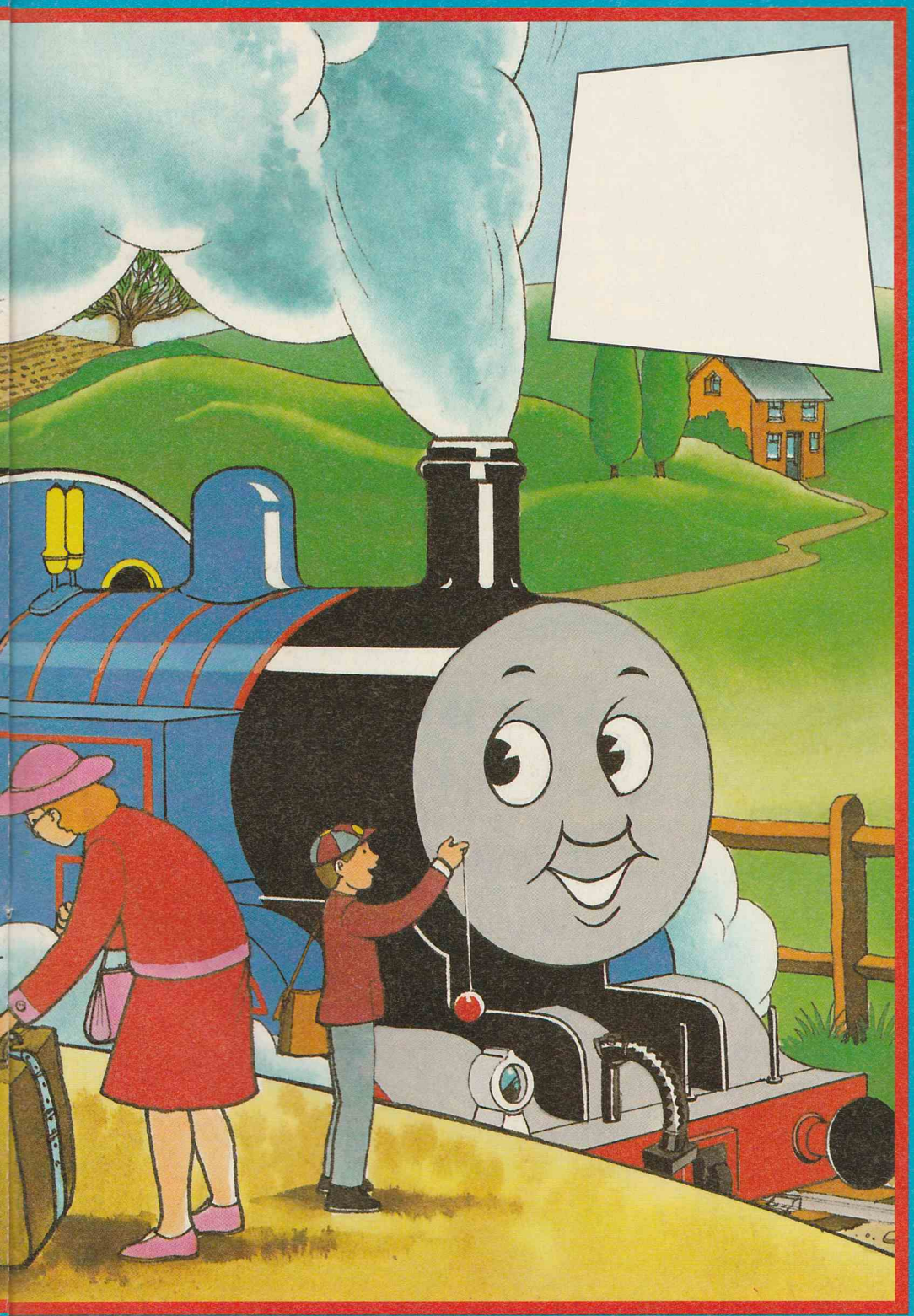


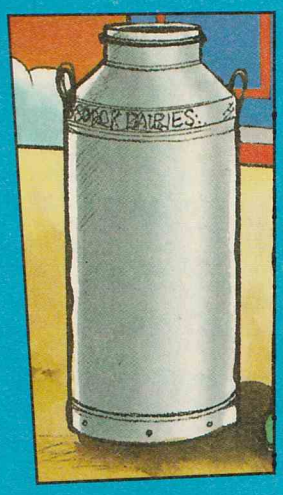
Cut and S

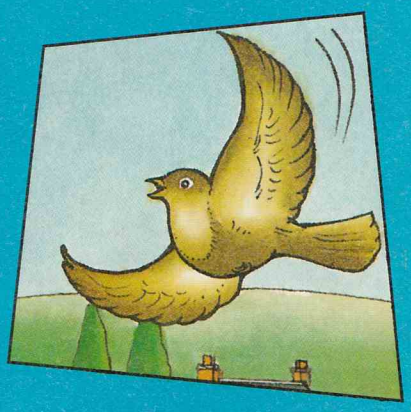
Can you help Thomas finish this picture. Get a grown-up to help you cut out the missing pieces on the right.

stick!

Then stick them in the correct places to complete this busy scene.



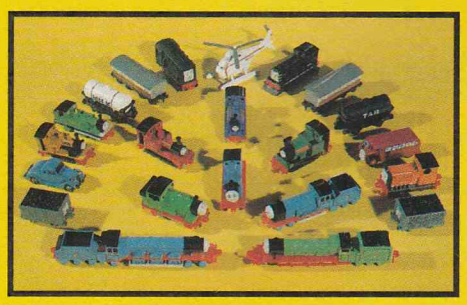




Bigger, better and even more fun!

Don't miss issue 220 of...

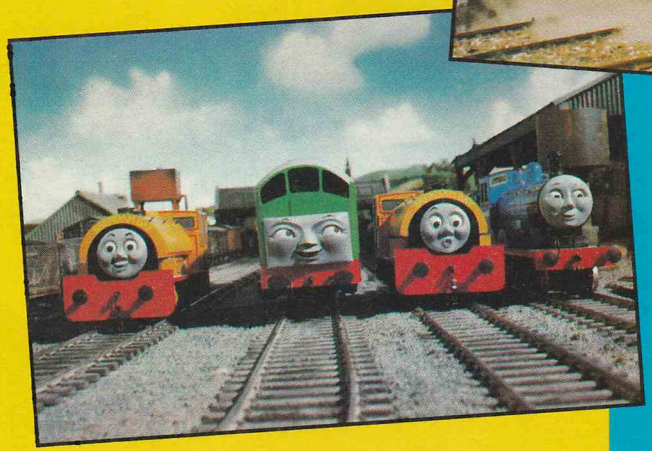
WIN



every engine in the Ertl range!

FREE

postcards, just for you!



Extra pages for extra fun!

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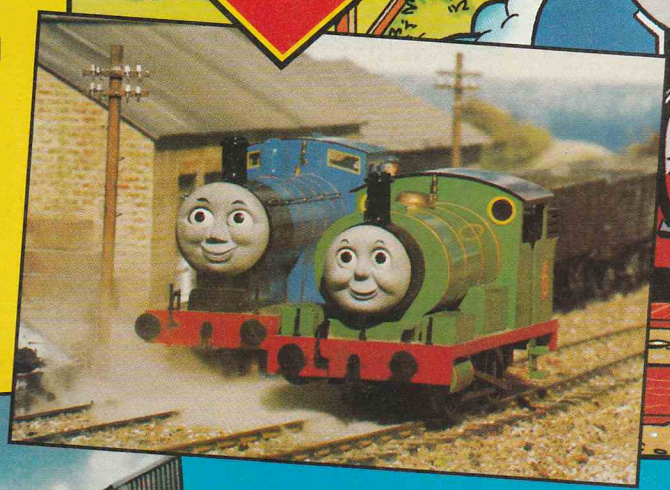
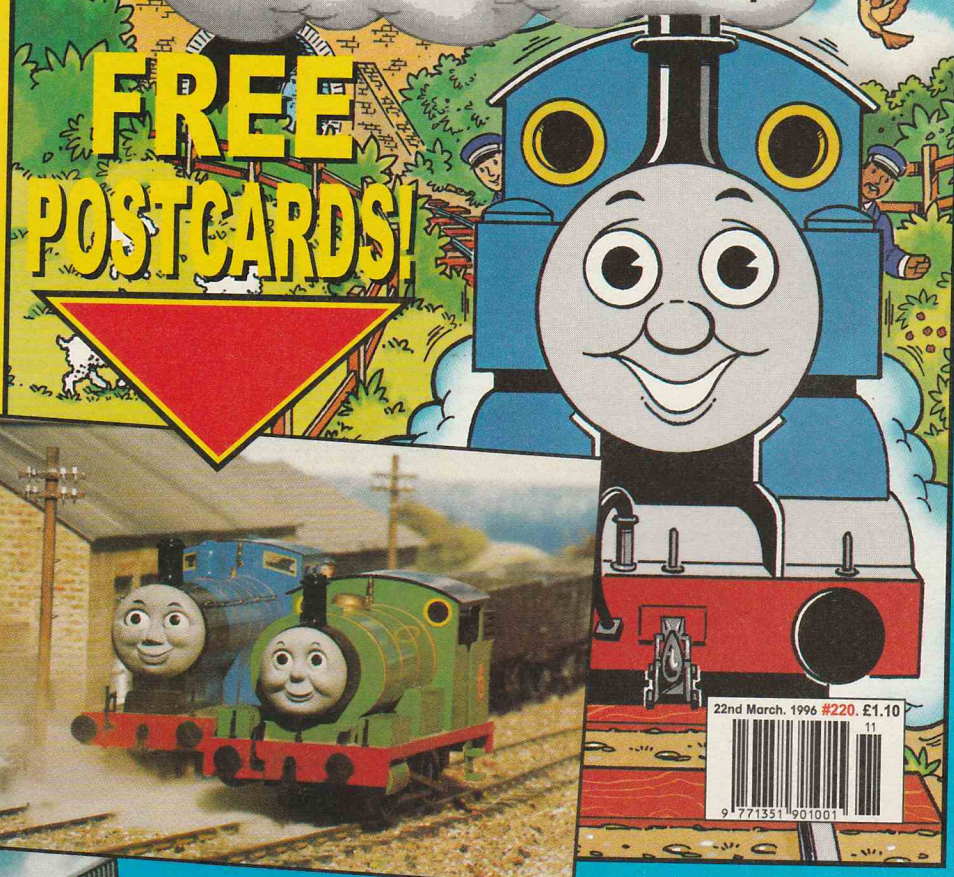
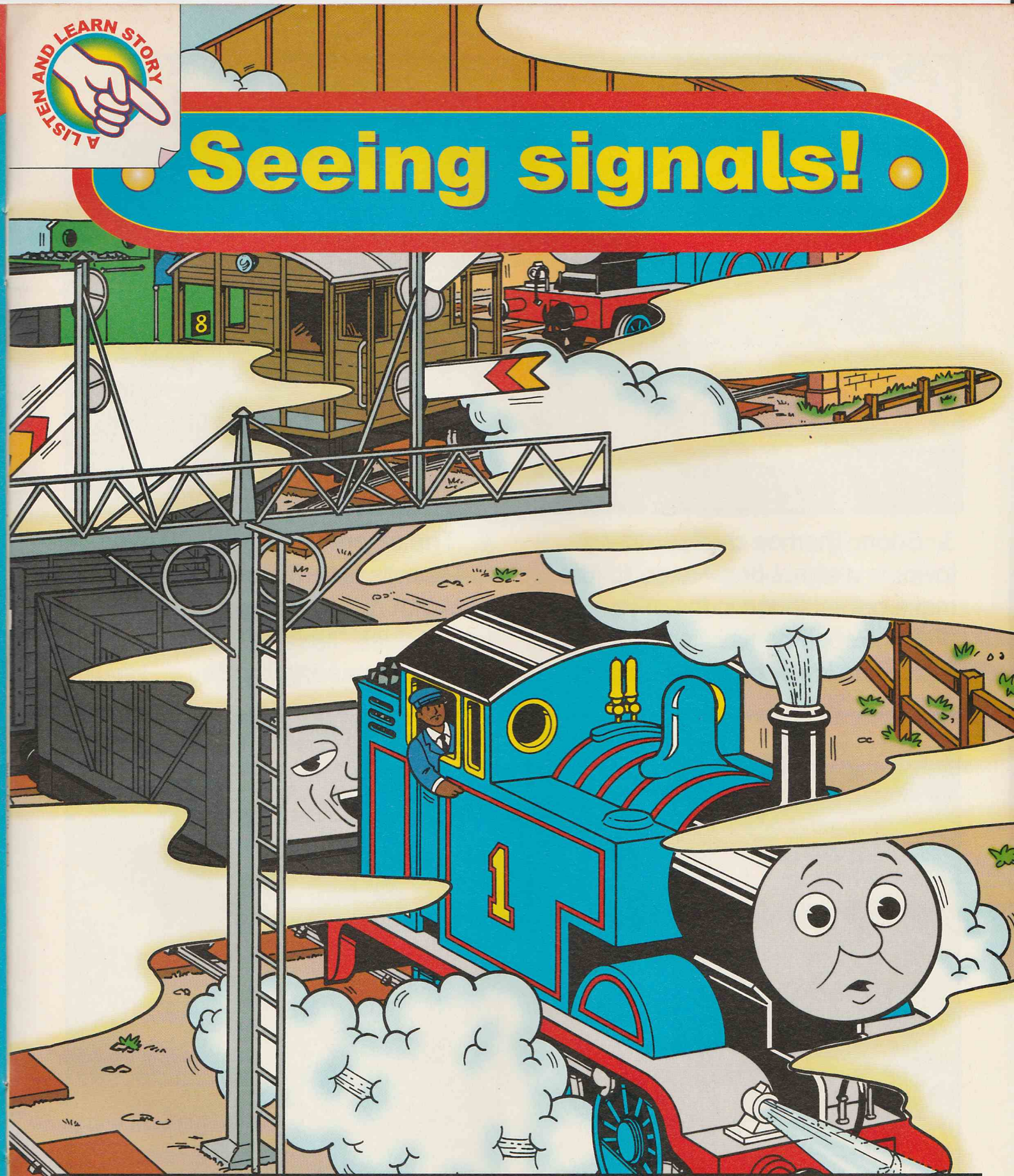




ALL NEW

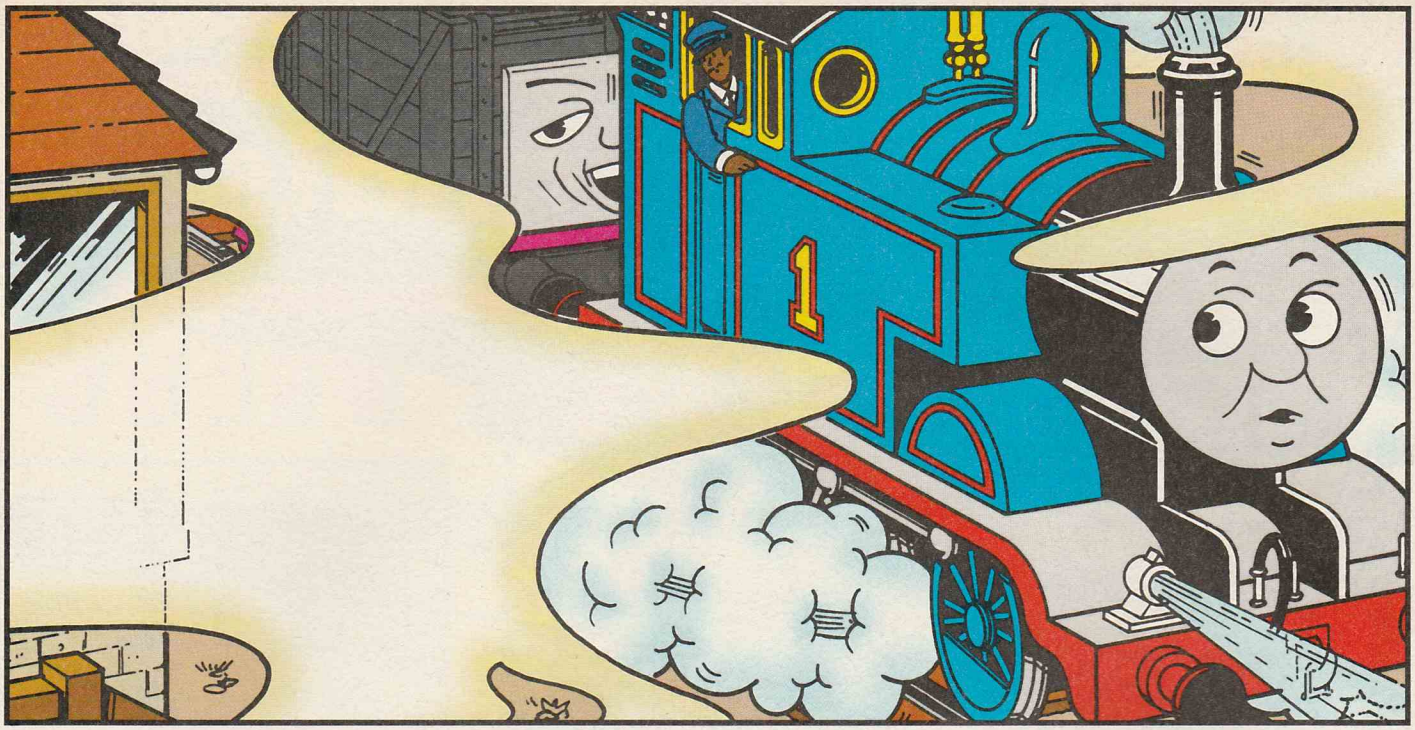
Packed with stories, games and activities!

In the shops from March 9th 1996!



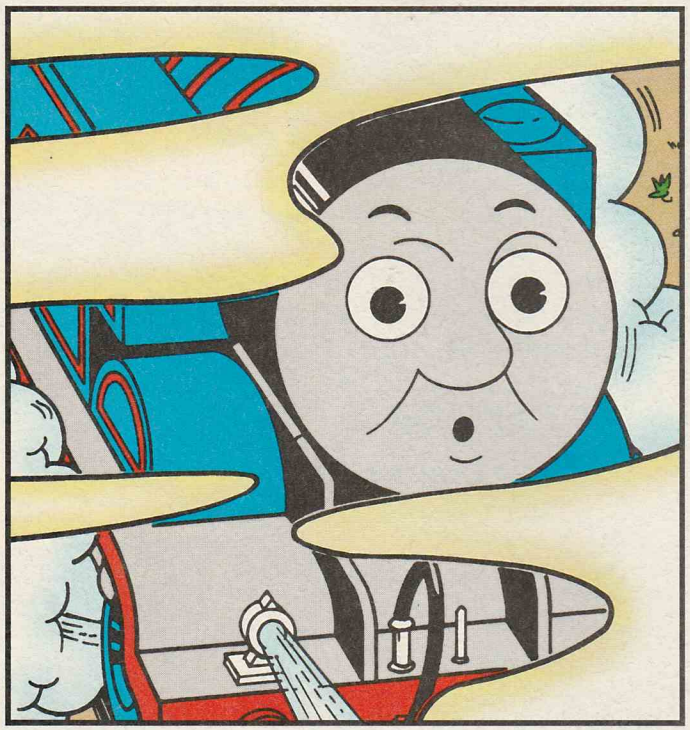
1. A thick mist had hung over the Island of Sodor for days. It made work difficult for all the engines. They had to go very carefully because they could not see much.

2. "It's like puffing through swirling smoke," grumbled Thomas as he left the Main Station yard with lots of goods trucks. "I can't go fast or I might miss a signal."



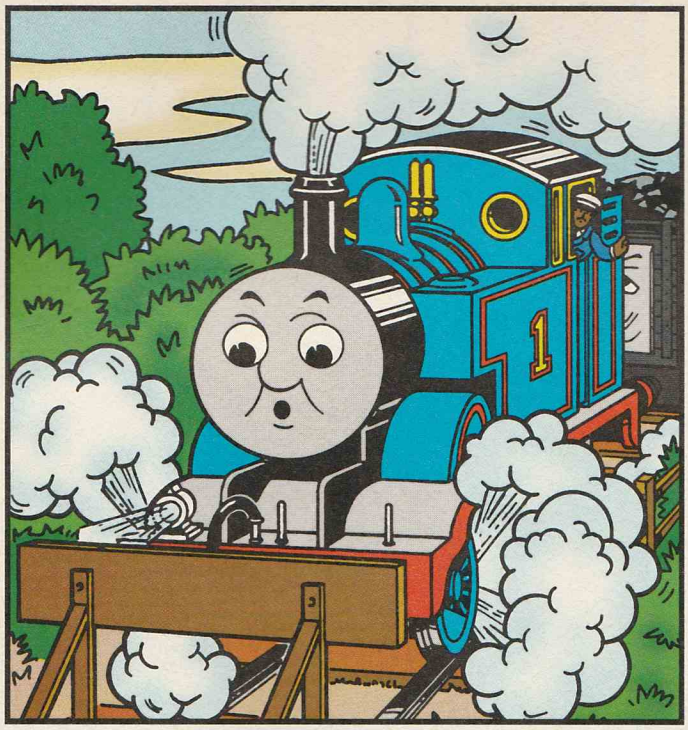
3. Soon, Thomas chuffed slowly towards a signal-box. He could just make out its shape in the mist. "Peep! Peep!" he whistled so the signalman knew he was coming.

4. The signalman always waved to Thomas from the window. "I won't spot him today," called Thomas, rolling past. "Neither will I," said his driver, peering hard.

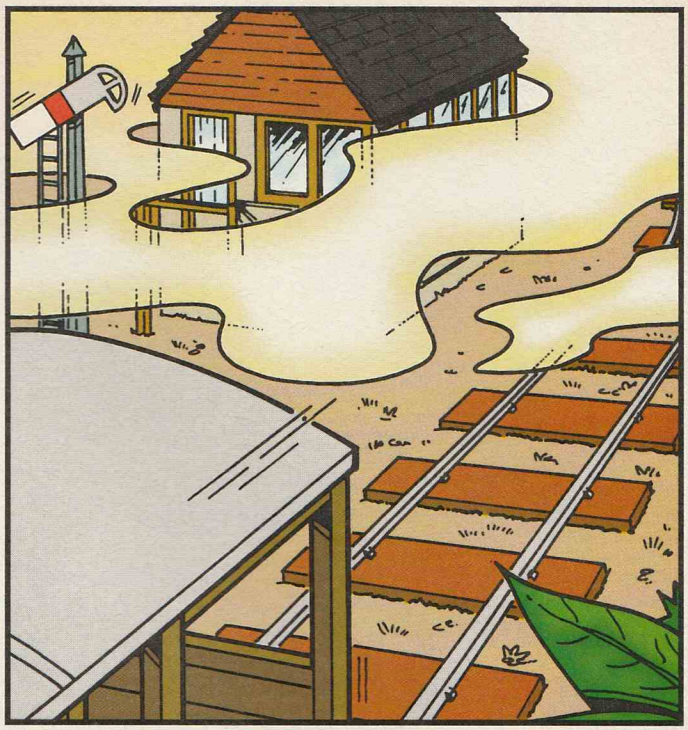


5. Thomas was to deliver the trucks to Wellsworth Station. But as he steamed ahead, the mist suddenly cleared, and Thomas had a shock. "Smoke and fire!" he gasped.

6. "This isn't my branch line at all!" gasped Thomas. He was on the wrong track! Thomas saw he was heading straight for some buffers. "Look out!" he cried.



7. His driver urgently shut off steam. Brakes squealing, Thomas made an emergency stop. "Phew! That was too close for comfort," he hissed. "I might have crashed!"



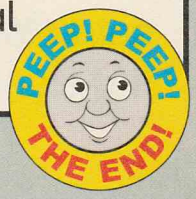
8. "We'll back up to the signal-box and find out why the points weren't changed for you," said his driver. When Thomas pulled up there, he and his crew heard someone call.

9. "Help!" came the cry. Thomas's driver hurried to see who was in trouble. It was the signalman. He sat below the steps leading up into the signal-box.

10. "I slipped and fell down here just before Thomas went past earlier," he said. The signalman explained that the telephone in the signal-box had stopped working.

11. "I went outside to see if the telephone line had broken. Then I stumbled and sprained my ankle," he said, "so I couldn't change the points." The driver helped the signalman aboard Thomas. Then the driver found another phone and rang the Fat Controller. Edward brought a new signalman to take charge of the signal-box.

12. Thomas set off for the station near the doctor's house. The mist was fading now, so Thomas could really race along at last. Luckily, the signalman's ankle was not badly sprained. He was soon back at work. When Thomas passed the signalbox again, the signalman waved as usual. "That's the best signal of all," smiled Thomas.



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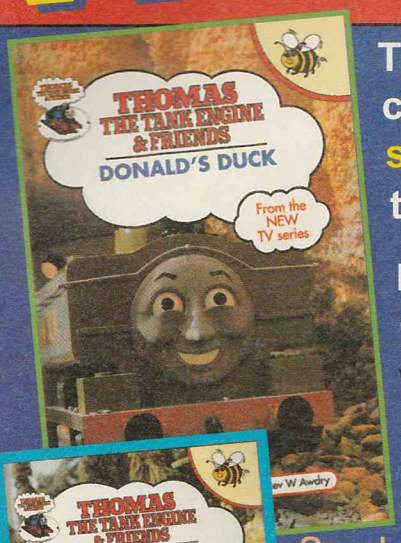

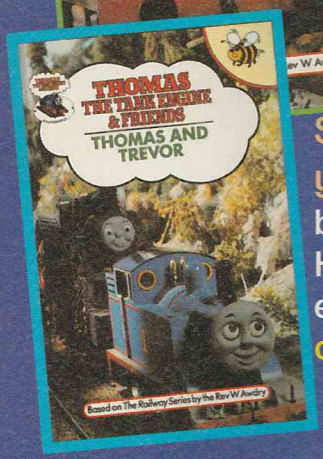

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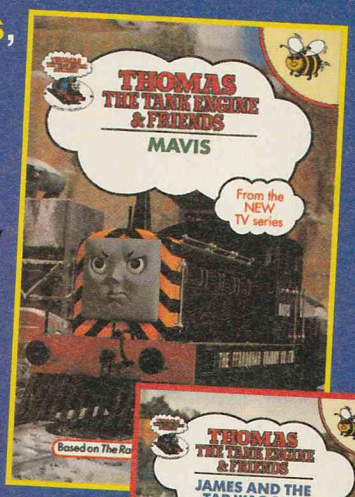

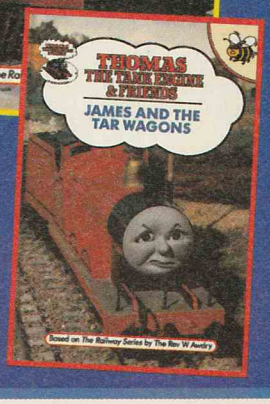

Send your answers on a postcard, along with your name, address and age, to: Thomas/Buzz books competition, Marvel Comics Limited, Arundel House, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 4DX. All entries must be received by 13 March 1996. The first six correct answers selected after that date will win a prize!

This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of Marvel Comics Ltd. We cannot accept any responsibility for prizes lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final, and no correspondence shall be entered into.

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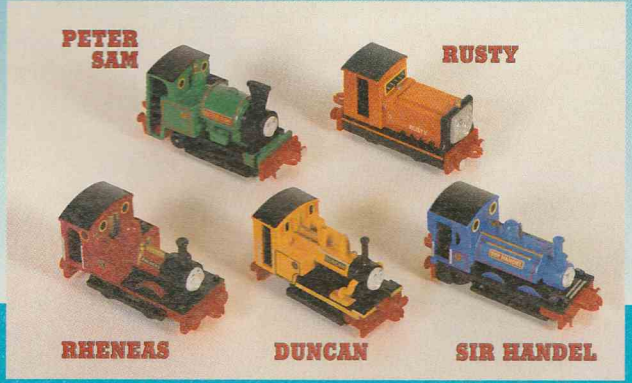

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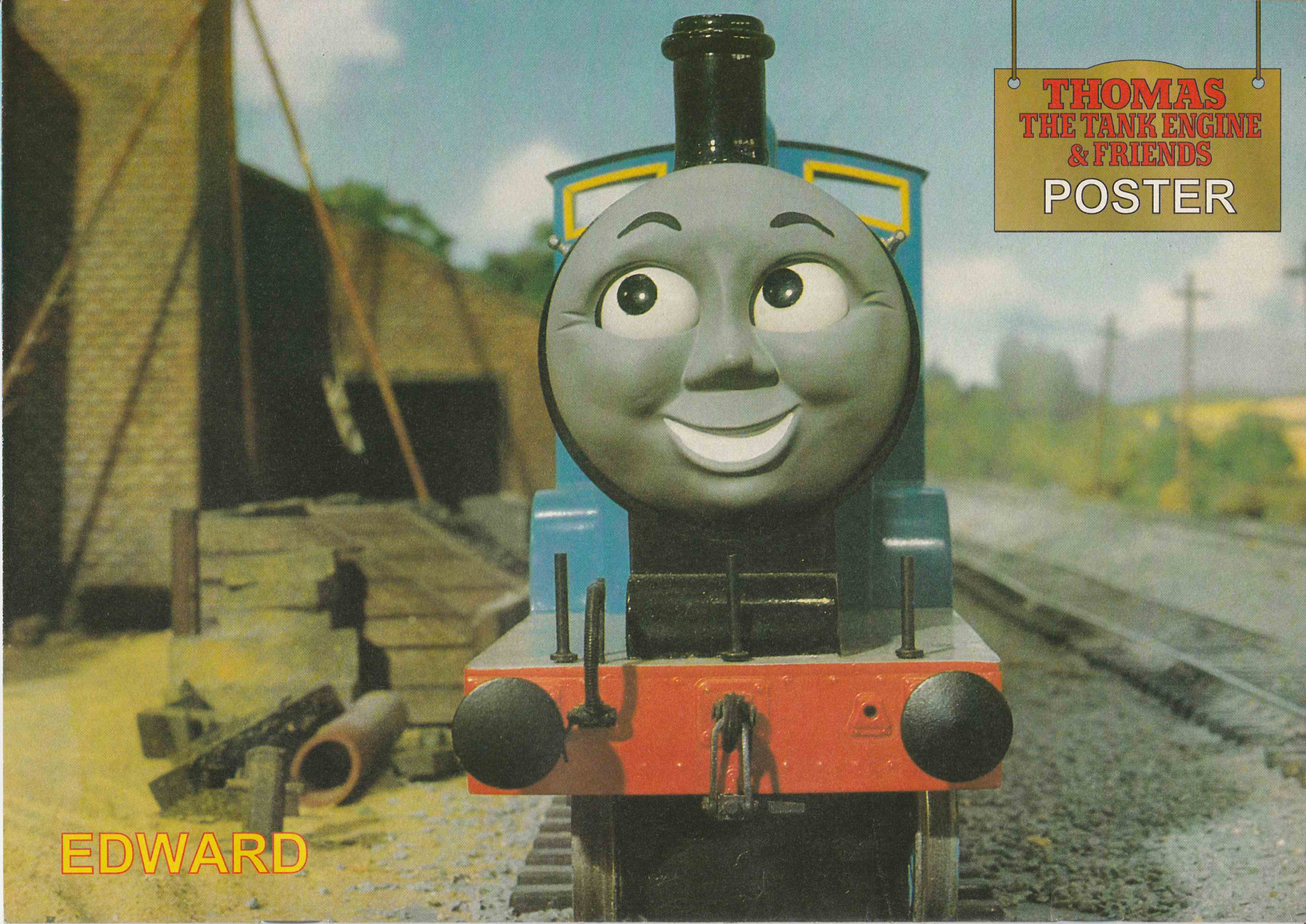
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